

Janna Kaplan

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To the Martha's Vineyard Commission members:

As a property owner on the Oak Bluffs bank of the Lagoon Pond, as well as a scientist and a conscientious citizen, I want to definitively oppose expansion of the Safe Harbors Marina in the West Arm of the Lagoon. Please listen to the residents of Oak Bluffs, permanent and summer, as well as numerous individuals and families who vacation in the Lagoon area in season and off season. We are all united by the love of this extremely beautiful and at the same time so fragile environment!

Every summer, I spend countless hours cleaning the beach by the Oak Bluffs' bluff, collecting and removing boat debris, human waste and trash, flotsam that cannot come from anything else but boats and irresponsible boaters. Especially after every storm, the quantity of such refuse increases dramatically. Additionally at such times, the Lagoon Heights beach is hit by broken pieces of boats and dinghies, the removal of which requires hired help and dumping charges. All this will increase manifold in case of bringing a large number of additional boats into the Lagoon!

Environmental concerns are also a significant issue. Every year, the Lagoon communities on both sides of the Pond put in a huge effort to maintain our Lagoon's sustainability and health. We are barely catching up with this enormous challenge which is being seriously worsened by the global warming. Adding the inevitable chemical and organic waste and runoff -- no matter how convincing the Safe Harbors Marina promises are to limit pollution -- will overwhelm the Lagoon's fragile ecosystem.

I urge the Martha's Vineyard Commission members to deny the proposed Safe Harbors Marina expansion.

I implore you as a private citizen and Lagoon Heights property owner, but also as the President of the Gayloon Associates, Inc. on behalf of all 57 members of this non-profit community organization.

Thank you!

Janna Kaplan